

# A.P.I.C.



# KEYNOTER

## NEWS OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL ITEMS COLLECTORS

SPRING 1963 ++ Issued four times yearly ++ U. I. Chick Harris, EDITOR

As you will note in the 'SECRETARY'S CORNER, the APIC is attracting many new members, and we sincerely hope that you find our organization to your liking. We'll appreciate your telling us what information you need and expect, as it is very easy to forget that each of us was once a beginner, and the struggles and trials of adding items. The following should be read carefully by the younger collectors, but doesn't apply exclusively to this group, and it is really difficult to understand how collectors can be so inconsiderate. Have heard of several instances where buttons sent on approval have been kept for several months, not even a letter to acknowledge receipt of the parcel. Any collector who is good enough to offer duplicates on approval should be notified promptly that the items were received and the group not purchased returned promptly. Occasionally we are all short of cash, but that is no excuse for delay, write and say you'd like to buy, and ask for the total amount due to be spread over several payments. Am sure most collectors will try to go along with such an arrangement, when it is really necessary.

## LET'S ALL HELP

Our Secretary-Treasurer has had more than his share of correspondence regarding the Membership application (Information) form--it is extra work to write for such, or for dues etc.. Ferd is doing a swell job and hasn't complained, just mentioned it to me, and does not know that I intend to insert this in the KEYNOTER. Let's each place ourselves corresponding with a couple hundred members and we would make sure that we handled things promptly--for its plenty of work keeping up with the regular duties--seems we are all getting busier all the time, so let's make a mental note to be sure it does not happen again. Sure we can count on YOU to help keep the work load to a minimum.

Sorry to fill the first page with such items, there is brighter news, just turn the page and you will see.



## Candidate Listing

The CANDIDATE LISTING of Presidential and V. P's. of all political parties, which Charlie Williams #121 and his Committee have been preparing for some time, contains 426 candidates and will be presented as a fifty page reference. It will be the most complete work ever compiled, and it is the result of hundreds of hours of reference work, pouring through books, pamphlets, and Charlie even went to newspaper accounts for certain convention information. There will be both an alphabetical and a chronological listing, and such details as the Convention date & site, as well as the popular and electoral vote of all Candidates. It is so inclusive that we felt the additional information would be more than worth the additional time needed.

Also since it is so well done, we want to present it in the best possible form to make it a handy reference. For this reason, much time and study has been given various methods and costs of presentation, and at present the Committee is presenting their views and before too long presses will be rolling..sure you'll say it was well worth waiting for.

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## A Code of Ethics ???

The Committee on 'Ethics' of TAMS (Token and Medal Society) has compiled a lengthy 'Code of Ethics on Reproductions' and the Committee Chairman, Eric P. Newman of St. Louis, a well known numismatist and a specialist in Colonial coins, has sent the APIC a copy, and urges us to adopt a similar stand on reproductions. This matter will presently be presented to the APIC Executive Board for recommendations and action. Special thanks to Wayne LaPoe who first alerted your President to this TAMS Committee. Was glad to supply information to them and if all collector groups and organizations take a firm stand against reproductions, we'll soon have a serious problem licked.

All APIC members, known to the officers of the APIC, who have been active or connected with making or offering reproductions have been contacted for statements regarding their activities in this field. The statements are being and will continue to be checked, to be sure all members are meeting the APIC Constitutional requirements. Should any member know of new activity by members in this field, please be sure to contact your President or Secretary-Treasurer, so that proper action in keeping with our Constitution may be taken.

DID YOU KNOW... that William Howard Taft was the only President to become Chief Justice of the U. S. .. and that Calvin Coolidge is the only President sworn into office by his father, upon the death of Harding.
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# *The Secretary's Corner*

by Ferd O'Brien - Secretary-Treasurer

The Holiday Quarter was particularly fortunate for the APIC. Many active and enthusiastic collectors joined ranks with us, and we sound a regal fanfare in their honor. (Please add the following to your roster booklets.)

- #202 - Donald B. Coney; 66 Golf St., Newington 11, CONNECTICUT; Printing salesman, (2-a-d-e-l) 666-3892
  - #203 - George M. Rinsland; 4015 Kilmer Ave., Allentown, PENNA.; Postal clerk, (3-2-d-e-l) 395-3939
  - #204 - Mrs. Tracy Lewis; 341 Jefferson Ave., Valley Park, MISSOURI; Housewife, (2-a-d-e-f-l) (314)VA5-2931
  - #205 - Lawrence J. Bleiberg; 14 Luddington Terrace, West Orange, NEW JERSEY Security Ananyst, (2-a-e-f-g-l) (201)REL-5560
  - #206 - Linda L. Kelsey; 1892 Andover Road, Columbus 12, OHIO; Student, (1-a-e-g-l) 488-2440
  - #207 - Tony Boatman; 200 - 36th Ave, N. E., St. Petersburg 4, FLORIDA; Student, (1-a-e-g-l) (813)896-4022
  - #208 - Steve Neulander; 760 Bronx River Road, Bronxville, NEW YORK; Direct Mail Manager (2-a-e-g-l) (914)BE7-4454
  - #209 - Paul Seitz; Glen Rock, PENNSYLVANIA; Banker-Numismatist, (3-a-b-d-e-l) 3812
  - #210 - Edward Chamberlin; 36 Grafton Avenue, Dayton 6, OHIO; Insurance salesman, (3-a-d-e-f-l) BA2-3623
  - #211 - John D. Wagner; 3840 Cloverfield Road, Harrisburg, PENNSYLVANIA; Retired, (3-a-e-g-l) (717)KI5-7285
  - #212 - Bill Wattenberg; 1111 Pine Street, Tallahassee, FLORIDA; Student, (1-a-e-f-l-Republican Items) 222-2225
  - #213 - Richard Lehner; 626 Independence Ave, S. E., Washington, D. C.; Attorney, (2-a-e-f-l) (202)547-2847
  - #214 - Mrs Richard O. Adkins; 114 Yale Avenue, Middlebury, CONNECTICUT; Housewife, (3-a-e-g-l) (203)758-2351
  - #215 - Edward C. Gumprecht; PO Box 141, Cheshire, CONNECTICUT; Traffic manager, (3-a-d-e-f-l) BR2-5110
  - #217 - Howard L. Burke; 2116 Ames Avenue, Cheyenne, WYOMING; State Representative, (
  - #218 - Sally C. Luscomb; Route 10, Southington, CONNECTICUT; 'JUST BUTTONS' MUSEUM, Publisher, (3-a-e-g-l) MA8-6337 ('Just Buttons' Magazine)
  - #218 - Ronald Kitchen; 905 W. Magnolia, Robinson, ILLINOIS; Teacher, (2-a-e-l)
- Change of Address:
- #16 - Ann Rost; 1502 Dargail Court, (St. Louis County) Dellwood, MISSOURI
  - #55 - Hazel V. Clark; 1324 S. Fremont, Springfield, MISSOURI



## THE SECRETARY'S CORNER - CONTINUED

At this writing over twenty of the 'Old Guard' have forgotten their 1963 dues. We need each other to keep APIC a vigorous and useful organization. If YOU have not enrolled for your renewal, please let me hear from you NOW.

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Mrs. Anne Thompson #186, writes to thank us for the hints on 'copies' of buttons, saying she bought some F. D. R. which were not contemporary. She also writes, "Willard Earle's article and idea were excellent, and to keep the ball rolling, I'm enclosing a description of what my favorites are". Mrs. Thompson is a newspaper publisher, so her opinions are especially appreciated.

### MY FAVORITE ITEM

The favorite item in my political button collection is actually a group of eight Eisenhower buttons, which belonged to Mrs. Eisenhower's mother, Mrs. Doud. After Mrs. Doud's death, the family home in Denver was sold, and Mamie Eisenhower and her sister gave many of the things in the house to the Colorado State Museum. However, some odds and ends (including the buttons) were turned over to the local Republican party for a rummage sale. It was an unusual rummage sale, however, since a certificate was issued with each item showing that it had come from the Doud house and was donated by Mamie. Each of my buttons is different, and two of them, "We Want Mamie" and a replica of a phonograph record with an eagle and "I Like Ike", are unique in my collection.

Anne Thompson (Mrs. Ross Thompson) APIC # 186 : : :

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Leonard Stark was the proud recipient of a telegram from the White House last month. The message informed him that he had been appointed a member of the U. S. Assay Commission, and was signed, JOHN F. KENNEDY.

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Mrs. Ellis Gay #7, tells us that from a woman's angle she just acquired the most exciting item she has seen. It is a red white and blue parasol, with a metal head of Benjamin Harrison. The head is one and a half inches long - just half the size of the head on a Harrison cane she has.

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Mrs. Gertrude Adkins #214, has an addition to the list of pertinent magazine articles about our hobby. It is entitled "Buttons and Politics in America, 1789 to 1900", and appeared in the Nov. 1950, ANTIQUES magazine.

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Bill Wattenberg #212, sends a newspaper article and photo, giving an interesting story of his political activities at college. He specializes in Republican items, and is active for the Party. Bill is an honor student studying under a Federal grant and also received an award from the TALLAHASSEE Jay Cees. Best wishes to our young fellow collector.



## THE SECRETARY'S CORNER - CONTINUED

Thanks to Joe Stone #44, for his note on copies. Joe writes, "Noted article on copies of buttons which I am very much against. However, regarding the "True-man Truman", Kefauver, Lausche, Wallace, Taft, Knowland and Eisenhower buttons made by the Cleveland company, these are not fakes to me. I picked up some, 10 to 15 years age, and they were made for special groups at election time. When I stopped in last, he was getting letters from collectors, and evidently decided to start faking older ones for profit."

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We round out the 'corner' this time with the financial report for 1962. We wish you the best in buttons with 'jugates' of luck. FERD.

### APIC FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1962

Balance as of February 5, 1962 (from Art Schofield)	\$ 409.59
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#### Receipts:

Dues Received after 2/5/62 . . . . .	\$379.50	
APIC buttons sold . . . . .	.45	
		379.95
		789.54

#### Expenses:

February 3 Newsletter - Harris . . . . .	\$ 9.00	
America Goes to the Polls - postage & envelopes	15.50	
April 12 Newsletter - Harris . . . . .	7.98	
APIC Emblem -Vote letter, cuts, rubber stamps.	25.53	
June 1 APIC News - Fishbaugh . . . . .	25.00	
June 19 Auction Expense - Bibler . . . . .	19.27	
Roster Booklet - Photo work and printing etc .	184.60	
Printing Price Guide . . . . .	5.70	
APIC Celluloid Buttons . . . . .	35.96	
September 1 Keynoter-Fishbaugh . . . . .	28.00	
Printing Constitution, Auction letter & Appl .	13.69	
December 1 Keynoter - Harris . . . . .	25.15	
Telephone calls on urgent APIC matters . . . . .	11.22	
Postage on APIC mailings . . . . .	28.67	
		435.27

Cash on hand 12/31/62 (Includes no 1963 dues.)	\$ 354.27
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Ferdinand W. O'Brien, Secretary-Treasurer

Fellow APIC,

As your President and one who acted as Treasurer for about half of 1962, I would like to make several comments on the above report. Our finances are in good condition and although officers of an organization are seldom fully reimbursed for expenses incurred, our Secretary-Treasurer



has refused to submit one cent of expenses. We owe him a big 'THANK YOU' not only for this, but for his prompt and efficient handling of his big job. Ferd has personally financed all postage, the Secretary's Newsletters and other expenses connected with the office, it is quite sizeable, but he will have it no other way. We are grateful, especially since 1963 will tax our Treasury rather heavily, as postage increases will be felt, as well as costs of printing the CANDIDATE LISTING etc. These extra costs plus our regular KEYNOTER, and regular mailings will make us cost conscious. We want you to know that we are spending the APIC funds with care and with the good of the general membership in mind, at all times.

U. I. Chick Harris, President.

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### WHAT TYPE OF ROSTER BOOKLET ?

While on the subject of finances, you'll note that our 1962 roster booklet was quite costly. Ferd has a swell Gold & Silver theme planned for 1963 booklet and the estimated costs would be about the same. He has delayed preparation of the booklet as we have been wondering if the membership wanted something so costly. We'd like to know if you want the 1963 roster to be along similar lines, or a very plain booklet (no photos etc.) or just an alphabetical listing on 8½ x 11 mimeo paper. You will recall we adopted the booklet because of popular demand,--it was one of the items discussed at the Chicago re-organization meeting. Personally I can see many advantages to a booklet, but the decision is with you, let Ferd know your preference--it is your money we're spending and we want to spend it to benefit the majority.

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### VIEWS ON MAIL AUCTIONS

Several members have written that they believe that auctions and mail bid sales actually are hurting their chances of obtaining items. While they may know that this actually happened, it seems that such offerings often bring items on the market which would not otherwise be offered, for one may not have a good idea of the value and would feel that this is their best chance of obtaining top value. I really believe that the many new enthusiastic collectors are just doing a much better job of getting the items from local and dealer sources than we did. The 1960 publicity in Life and other national magazines has made every antique dealer P. A. conscious, this is good, for ten years ago practically every shop told you the same story, 'Oh, I never save those, I've never been asked for such'. Now it's a different story, "I don't keep that stuff very long, someone is always asking for political items." Don't be content with a dealers 'No, I haven't a thing', -- look around, as I often find things which many don't associate with P. A., especially items referring to Gold, Silver, Trusts, and other terms peculiar to our hobby.



## Another New Feature

Hope you enjoyed the second installment of 'MY FAVORITE ITEM' which is the brain child of one of our long time collectors, Willard Earle #9. This fine new feature brought to mind some of the interesting accounts of how some of our fellow collectors became interested in Political Americana. Thought that you might like to know of some of these stories and to get the feature started, I'll tell how the collecting bug bit me. Should you like the new feature and would like to tell your story, send it in and we will use, one a month--please limit to approximately 400 words or less.

### A PINNED UP - PIN DOLL.

Probably no other collection of Political Americana began as the result of a Pin Doll, but here's the story. Most of you will probably recall the old style dresser, with the mirror held on each side by a wooden brace with a curved and ornately decorated top. Well my grandfather found this brace the handiest place for an excelsior doll, about twelve inches long, which had originally been in my mother's Christmas stocking. The doll had a narrow ribbon around the neck and hung in plain view and always caught my eye. It was quite colorful for it held tie pins, lapel buttons, and about fifty celluloid political and historical buttons. There were several McKinley, including an unusual full dinner pail, some Teddy, Bryan, Wilson, Taft, Harding, Coolidge, Al Smith, FDR etc, but not a Cox or Davis. Upon my grandfather's death I asked for the 'pin doll' and an old shoe box held this button treasure. Each election I would add a few buttons which were worn locally and that was about the extent of my collecting, until my father met a collector from Litchfield, Illinois, about forty miles from my home. One Sunday afternoon shortly thereafter, we (my wife and parents) had a nice visit with Walter G. Sanders, one of the founders of APIC, and viewed his fine collection. I had no ideas that there were items such as Gold Bugs, Ferros, etc, and these were all that was needed to make me a died-in-the-wool collector. This was in 1951 and I immediately began in earnest to scour every antique shop, and there hasn't been a dull moment since. Oh! yes, I still have the pin doll, -- the cloth is splitting and its losing some excelsior, but it will always be a cherished part of my collection. For to such an unusual and humble beginning I owe a great amount of pleasure, and many wonderful friends.

U. I. Chick Harris #139.

DID YOU KNOW... that there will be a collection of Political Americana at the New York Worlds Fair in 1964...yes, a portion of J. Doyle DeWitt's #25 collection will be on display in the Travelers Building. George W. Taber #119, also tells us that Mr. DeWitt was on a TV and radio show honoring Abe Lincoln and told of his collection.

Special thanks to Charles McSorley, Jr. #38, for allowing the APIC to offer the enclosed reprints of various button lists. Hope you like, if so, let us know, possibly we can do more of this in the future.



## Auction Bid Prices

Our Winter Auction, would be better terminology to refer to it as a Mail Bid Sale, is now history. It was very successful, even though only seventy six items were offered. There were 269 bids received and fourteen items received no bids, hope you have better luck next time, if you were one of the unsuccessful bidders. Jack Putman did most of the work and our thanks to him and we do appreciate Joe Brown's driving up to help open the bids etc. -- believe this is the most reasonable cost of any auction, Jack's bill was only \$9.32. Thanks to all who helped in any way to make it a real success. The PRICES REALIZED, which is a new feature, are listed below. We hope that these will help guide you in obtaining items for your collection, Remember these are the maximum amounts which were offered and may have been on items especially needed to fill a certain spot and slightly over what the items should normally bring.

Item #1 - \$16.00	#20- \$ 2.50	#39- \$16.10	#58- \$ 7.75
2 - 3.50	21- 7.00	40- n.b.	59- 4.01
3 - 3.00	22- n.b.	41- 18.70	60- 16.00
4 - 5.40	23- 7.53	42- 7.00	61- n.b.
5 - 1.95	24- 5.82	43- 2.07	62- 3.15
6 - 5.00	25- n.b.	44- n.b.	63- n.b.
7 - 3.75	26- 1.25	45- n.b.	64- 15.27
8 - no bd	27- .35	46- 17.00	65- 3.10
9 - 11.00	28- .10	47- n.b.	66- n.b.
10- 7.50	29- 3.55	48- 51.00	67- 1.75
11- 22.75	30- n.b.	49- n.b.	68- 1.75
12- 18.52	31- 21.50	50- 17.50	69- 1.75
13- 3.80	32- 4.60	51- 17.10	70- 12.32
14- 3.00	33- .75	52- 1.65	71- 9.00
15- 3.75	34- 12.27	53- 2.57	72- n.b.
16- 3.00	35- 7.75	54- 2.05	73- 2.75
17- 1.25	36- 6.60	55- 1.65	74- 3.55
18- n.b.	37- 4.12	56- 1.10	75- 3.75
19- 4.76	38- 7.50	57- 10.25	76- 3.75

DID YOU KNOW...the name of one of our Vice presidents, Elbridge Gerry, who served with Madison, has been adopted as a part of our English language--the Gerrymander, referring to an unnatural districting of an area for political advantages. (Actually he signed the bill reluctantly.)  
 ..... or that, when former President John Tyler, died in 1862, the government made no announcement or proclamation of his death.